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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 17 August 2001, at 4 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. WEISSBRODT

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CLOSING OF THE SESSION

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (item 7 of the agenda)

(a) DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.1)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the members of the Sub-Commission to take note of the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission, and also of the information concerning the related documents (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.1).

2. Mr. KARTASHKIN proposed separate consideration of each of the questions falling under item 6 (c) of the draft provisional agenda.

3. Ms. MOTOC, supported by Ms. ZERROUGUI, proposed that the question of women and human rights be the subject of a separate agenda item.

4. Ms. WARZAZI, supporting the previous two speakers, said that the Sub-Commission would be failing its duty if it did not respond to the General Assembly's request to all bodies dealing with human rights that they consider the rights of women. Devoting a separate agenda item to that subject would enable NGOs to judge precisely when to intervene on a whole series of questions, such as traditional practices, mass rape, female migrant workers or double discrimination.

5. Ms. HAMPSON said that in her view it was rather insulting to regard women as "other matters", as in the present agenda of the Sub-Commission. It should be possible to arrive at a consensus on the need to consider the question of women and human rights as such. That having been said, supported by Mr. PINHEIRO, she felt that, if the question were a separate agenda item, that would detract from other questions dealt with by the Sub-Commission, since it would be necessary to devote two or three meetings to it, and also to the subitems which would inevitably be created, whereas inscribing it as a subitem of an agenda item other than item 6 would avoid that pitfall.

6. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the general practice of the Sub-Commission was simply to take note of the provisional agenda for the next session, since it would have to be discussed and adopted, with possible changes, at the start of that session.

7. Mr. JOINET, supported by Ms. MOTOC, recalled that, formally, the Sub-Commission could, at a current session, change the provisional agenda for the next session; that seemed to be what was implied by rule 5 of the Guidelines for the application by the Sub-Commission of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

8. Mr. YIMER said that such an approach would be technically possible, but it would be better, in practice, to wait until the start of the fifty-fourth session and then examine, and possibly change, the agenda for that session.

9. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if he heard no objections, he would assume that the Sub-Commission wished to take note of the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session, account being taken of the proposals for change which had been made and which would be considered during the adoption proper of the draft provisional agenda, at the start of the fifty-fourth session.

10. *It was so decided.*

(b) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.10 and Addenda, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.11 and Addenda)

11. Mr. PREWARE (Rapporteur), presenting the draft report of the Sub-Commission, said that it was not yet available in all languages.

12. The CHAIRPERSON said that Mr. Bengoa had corrections to make to the part of the report relating to the Social Forum and that he himself intended to submit some changes to that text. The Secretariat would take account of the corrections which participants might wish to submit, it being understood that they should be communicated to it before 14 September 2001. He proposed that the Sub-Commission adopt the draft report *ad referendum*.

13. The draft report of the Sub-Commission on the work of its fifty-third session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.10 and Addenda and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/L.11 and Addenda) was adopted *ad referendum*.

14. Ms. ROBINSON (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that she had followed the work of the Sub-Commission with great interest. The Sub-Commission had demonstrated, at its current session, great innovative spirit and was making full use of its expertise at a decisive time for the cause of human rights. Particularly important in that regard had been the discussion on globalization that had followed the presentation of the report of Mr. Oloka-Onyango and Ms. Udagama on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, and also the preparatory meeting of the Special Forum. The latter body would focus in the coming year on the struggle against extreme poverty and, in particular, on the right to food. The Sub-Commission had also, by its resolution 2001/1, made a non-negligible contribution to the forthcoming Durban Conference on Racism. Lastly, referring to the various studies and working documents whose elaboration had been entrusted to several members of the Sub-Commission, she said that the Sub-Commission had lived up to its role of research body that placed its analytical skills at the service of other United Nations bodies.

15. At the procedural level, the fact that the discussions during the current session had focused on reports and working documents, instead of being a simple succession of statements by speakers inscribed in a list, had been very favourably received by the NGOs.

16. Noting that the Sub-Commission, given the complexity of the questions before it, wished the normal duration of its sessions—four weeks—to be re-established, she said that her very presence demonstrated the importance which she attached to the work of the Sub-Commission.

17. Lastly, she paid tribute to the two members of the Sub-Commission whose terms were ending, namely Ms. Daes and Mr. Joinet.

18. The CHAIRPERSON, having expressed his gratitude to all those who had contributed to the success of the current session, paid particular tribute to two of his colleagues whose terms were ending, namely Ms. Daes and Mr. Joinet. Both had done pioneering work, and their contributions to the deliberations of the Sub-Commission would remain a source of inspiration for all.

19. Ms. PARKER (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights), speaking on behalf of that organization and of the Tupaj Amaru Movement, paid an eloquent tribute to Ms. Daes for her tremendous contribution to the defence of the rights of indigenous populations.

20. Ms. DAES, having thanked the previous speaker and also all those others who had spoken warmly about her, expressed her own gratitude to the governmental representatives without whom nothing could have been done for indigenous groups and appealed to them to continue supporting the efforts of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

21. Mr. PINHEIRO said that, as a national of a Latin American country, he wished to pay personal tribute to Mr. Louis Joinet and Ms. Erika Daes: to Mr. Louis Joinet because he had demonstrated unshakeable devotion to the cause of human rights during the dark hours of dictatorship in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile; and to Ms. Daes because the indigenous populations of Latin America owed her a great deal, as had been recalled by the representative of the Tupaj Amaru Movement.

22. After an exchange of compliments in which Ms. WARZAZI, Mr. EIDE, Mr. BENGOA, Mr. GOONESEKERE, Mr. PINHEIRO and Ms. MOTOC participated, the CHAIRPERSON declared the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.